

# Study Guide



## Matthew 9:35-10:15 – Sending Out Disciples February 4, 2018

### Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

### Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

### Word (45 Minutes)

As we look at Jesus' five discourses in Matthew, we see Matthew and the other disciples "at the feet of Jesus." These teachings are in the context of Jesus' calling and equipping the twelve apostles to go and make disciples of all nations. In our nine months of studying Jesus' five discourses of Matthew we will be sitting at the feet of Jesus learning the ins-and-outs of being disciple-makers ourselves. Our prayer is that we will be challenged to understand that we were saved in order to be disciple-makers and that we will be inspired to sit at the feet of Jesus to be equipped for our calling to be disciple-makers.

For further study on this weeks study please check out the following pages...

## Action Step

Jesus calls us to pray earnestly for laborers in 9:36-38. Take some time in your Community Group to pray through this passage. Pray for compassion. Pray earnestly for the Lord to send out laborers into His harvest.

## Calendar

February 4th— Youth Super Bowl Party  
February 5th— Camp in the City Registration  
February 9-10th— IF Gathering  
February 11th— Member's Meeting  
March 4th- April 15th— Connection Group  
March 16th- 18th— DNOW

## Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

## Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Amazing Grace](#)":

Amazing grace  
How sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost, but now I'm found  
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

My chains are gone  
I've been set free  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy reigns  
Unending love, amazing grace

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God, who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

**Commentary: Read Matthew 9:35-10:15**

Over the next five weeks we are going to see **Christ calls his followers to a costly mission that will involve suffering and opposition, but the sovereign care and protection of God are sufficient to sustain our faith.** In Matthew 9:35-10:15 the disciples see a glimpse into Jesus's heart and are given a commission to pray and go.

First, a glimpse into Jesus's heart. Verse 35-38 reveals to the readers Jesus's compassion for people. To understand what compelled the compassion of Jesus, there are three factors we can look at. Verse 36 says, "When He saw the crowds he felt compassion for them." Commentators say there may have been around 200 cities and villages in Galilee at this point, with a possible population of about three million people. That is a lot of people! When Jesus saw the crowd, the text indicates that He literally felt agony. He was not just emotionally moved, but physically affected with compassion when He saw the crowds. The language used here is the idea of seeing someone you love hurting or suffering so much so that your heart physically feels like it will burst. Jesus also shows the need of the crowd, the suffering of the crowd. Matthew describes the crowds as "harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd (36)." Jesus knew the crowds desperately needed Him as their merciful shepherd. They could not be satisfied apart from Him. Lastly, Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few," in verse 37. He understands their separation. Through out scripture this "harvest" language is associated with judgement (Joel 3:13-14; Matthew 13). Jesus understood the desperate condition of the crowd. These were people who were separated from God, if nothing changed, and one day will stand in front of the Lord in their sin and be cast into darkness. This is the compassion Jesus was moved to.

Second, a commission to pray and go. In light of the abundant harvest of people who are separated from God, Jesus calls us to pray. "Therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest (38)." Jesus says, here is the harvest, here are the people, now pray for them. Jesus's followers are called to ask and plead with God to send workers. To pray to the Lord of the harvest for the glorious goal of spreading His gospel to the whole world. Then Jesus summons us to go. First we pray, then we go. In Matthew 10:1-12, Jesus calls 12 disciples to Himself and gives them orders. In these verses we need to understand that Jesus' words are specifically aimed at these 12 disciples for this particular occasion. Jesus commands them to not go to the Gentiles (5), but only to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel (6)." However, we know that Jesus later sent these disciples, and all disciples, to go to "all nations" (Matt. 28:19) with the good news of the gospel. Specifically in this passage Jesus told His disciples to go bringing God's kingdom to the people that the world ignored or oppressed. Go to the needy, the dirty, the diseased, the dying, and the despised. And as you go, learn to trust God's provision (9-10; Mark 6:8-9). Go to these people and knock on their doors. If the house is "worthy" or responds positively to your message then "let your peace come upon them." If the house is "not worthy" or accepting of the gospel then "shake off the dust from your feet when you leave" and move on because they are have rejected the gospel and judgement day will one day come to them (14-15).

## Discussion - Read Matthew 9:35-10:15

1. What were the main activities in Jesus ministry in the cities and villages of Israel (10:35)?
2. What was Jesus reaction to the crowds that he was ministering to? How did he see them?
3. By comparison what is our attitude toward unbelievers around us and how do we view them?
4. Not only did Jesus see them as sheep without a shepherd, but he saw them as a potential harvest. In what way were these harassed and helpless people a potential harvest?
5. What did Jesus say first to his disciples about this potential harvest? Jesus was working in the harvest very effectively. Why did he need other workers for the harvest?
6. How did the "Lord of the harvest" answer the prayers of the disciples for workers to enter the harvest?
7. Notice in 10:1 and 10:7-8 that Jesus gave the 12 disciples authority and a description of what they were to do in their ministry. How did the description of ministry for the 12 disciples compare to the earlier descriptions of Jesus own ministry (Matt 4:23, Matt 9:35)?
8. Does Jesus instructions to the twelve about not going among the Gentiles and Samaritans indicate a reluctance on Jesus' part to work among the Gentiles and Samaritans in his own ministry? Look at Matt 4:24-25, Matt 8:5-6, and Matt 28:19.

9. In verses 8-10 what are Jesus' instructions to the twelve regarding money, provisions for their trip and wages? What is the meaning of the phrase, "You received without paying; give without pay".
  
10. When the disciples went to a new town, they were told to look for a worthy person or worthy house in that town. What do you think that means?
  
11. These instructions of Jesus were specifically for the 12 disciples as they spread the gospel to Israel. Do you think there are any general principles about ministry in this passage that would be applicable in our own time? If so, what are they?
  
12. How would you describe your attitude toward unbelieving coworkers and neighbors? What factors keep you from feeling compassion for them?
  
13. **Watch this video.** (<http://bit.ly/2nyDBM5>)  
Do the massive spiritual needs of the world compel you to action or make you feel helpless? How might Jesus's call to pray in 9:36-38 impact your reaction? **Take some time in your Community Group to pray through this passage. Pray for compassion. Pray earnestly for the Lord to send out laborers into His harvest.**

## Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Matthew to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

### **Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:**

Hub/purchased	Celebrate recovery
Young life	Samaritan counseling
Heart of hope	Last call ministries
First priority	Golden age ministries
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center	Rescue mission
Community renewal	Luke's lighthouse
Grief counseling	FCA

### **Here is a list of missionaries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:**

Shannon & Carrie Lewis (South Sudan)  
Matt & Angie Johnson (Panama)  
Meggie Hickson (Tanzania)  
Kyle & Suzy Jagers (New Orleans)

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!

# Walk

Prayer & Missions

For further information visit  
[norrisferrychurch.org](http://norrisferrychurch.org) or contact Jared  
Clary ([clary@norrisferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norrisferrychurch.org))

# Calendar

February 22nd- March 3rd — South Sudan  
March 29th- April 1st— NOLA  
June— Serve Shreveport  
July— Community Outreach